

Message Text

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 INR-07
NSAE-00 PA-01 USIA-06 PRS-01 SP-02 /040 W
-----172227Z 038329 /15

R 171006Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4398
INFO AMEMBASSY ANKARA
AMEMBASSY ATHENS

C O N F I D E N T I A L KHARTOUM 1670

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, SU, TU
SUBJECT: TURKEY TO CLOSE EMBASSY IN KHARTOUM

1. TURKISH CHARGE CANDAN GOKSENIN DREW ME ASIDE DURING
FAREWELL PARTY FOR DEPARTING GERMAN AMBASSADOR EVENING MAY
16 TO INFORM ME THAT TURKS HAVE DECIDED CLOSE THEIR EMBASSY
HERE. ACTION BEING TAKEN IN PROTEST AGAINST SUDAN GOV. DECISION
OPEN EMBASSY IN ATHENS. GOKSENIN SAID HE MADE FORMAL DEMARCHE
TO FONMINISTRY UPON RECEIVING INSTRUCTIONS DIRECTLY FROM
TURKISH FONMINISTER. MOREOVER, HE SAID TURKISH SHADOW
FONMINISTER HAD APPROVED MORE.

2. GOKSENIN EXPLAINED TURKEY HAS MAINTAINED EMBASSY HERE
SINCE SHORTLY AFTER SUDANESE INDEPENDENCE, AND UNTIL RECENTLY
TURKISH AMBASSADOR WAS RESIDENT IN KHARTOUM. HOWEVER,
SUDANESE HAVE NOT HAD RESIDENT MISSION IN ANKARA AND, ACCORDING
TURKISH CHARGE, THEY ONLY ARAB COUNTRY NOT TO DO SO. HE SAID
HE HAD INFORMED SUDAN GOV. PREVIOUSLY THAT, IF EMBASSY WERE
OPENED IN ATHENS, TURKS WOULD EXPECT ONE TO BE OPENED IN
ANKARA AS WELL. WITH ANNOUNCEMENT BY NIMEIRI LATE LAST MONTH
THAT EMBASSIES WOULD BE OPENED IN GREECE AND SEVERAL OTHER
COUNTRIES, WITH NO EVIDENCE OF ANY INTENTION OPEN EMBASSY IN
ANKARA, TURKS HAVE DECIDED TIME HAS COME EXPRESS DISPLEASURE
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BY CLOSING THEIR EMBASSY HERE.

3. COMMENT: HOWEVER SERIOUS SUDANESE ACTION IS TO TURKS,
WE BELIEVE SUDANGOV HAD NO DESIRE COMPLICATE ITS RELATIONS
WITH TURKEY. SUDANESE PROBABLY FAILED APPRECIATE SERIOUS-
NESS WITH WHICH TURKS VIEWED MATTER. TURKEY AND SUDAN HAVE
VIRTUALLY NO INTERESTS IN EACH OTHER'S COUNTRY. HOWEVER,

THERE TRADITIONALLY HAS BEEN LARGE AND IMPORTANT GREEK
COMMUNITY HERE, AND THERE DIRECT FLIGHTS BETWEEN KHARTOUM AND
ATHENS. THEREFORE, THOUGH RELATIVELY MINOR, GREEK/SUDANESE
LINKS ARE CONSIDERABLY MORE IMPORTANT THAN TURKISH/SUDANESE
CONNECTIONS.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: FOREIGN RELATIONS, DIPLOMATIC MISSION CLOSING, DIPLOMATIC PROTESTS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 17-May-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977KHARTO01670
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770175-0644
Format: TEL
From: KHARTOUM
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770550/aaaabqpm.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: ae943d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION AF
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 09-Feb-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 2494091
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: TURKEY TO CLOSE EMBASSY IN KHARTOUM
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, SU, TU
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/ae943d92-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009